Health status of children

713. SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the CAG in an appraisal of the Integrated Child Development Service Scheme between 1992—99 has lamented that the scheme has done little in improving the health status of children;

(b) if so, the facts and figures which attracted such observations from the CAG and the drawbacks pointed out in implementation of the scheme pointed out by the CAG; and

(c) the steps since taken to improve the conditions and implementation mechanism in the light of the CAGs recommendations and observations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) The Report is a performance appraisal of the impact of the scheme and the delivery services there under. It has commented on the objectives, implementation and impact processes, shortfalls in the targets, discrepancies in the nutrition distribution, receipt of medicine kits, diversion of funds, identification and coverage of beneficiaries, health input delivery, training and monitoring among other things.

(c) Some of the major initiatives taken by the Department to increase the effectiveness and impact of the programme in the last two years include;

(i) The freeze on expansion imposed in May, 1997 has been lifted. Permission for operationalization of 5171 ICDS blocks upto Ninth Five Year Plan has been granted.

(ii) The monitoring mechanism has been replaced with consolidated State reports providing more focused information to facilitate feed back.

(iii) The financial norms under the Scheme have been revised upward to strengthen the scheme. The State Governments have been impressed upon to provide adequate budget provision for supplementary nutrition. The nutrition component of Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana, has also been included to increase nutritional coverage of supplementary feeding.

(iv) The procurement of medicine kits have been decentralized, provision of pre-school kit introduced.

(v) The decentralized training programme for ICDS functionaries named UDISHA has been launched.

Grants to new universities of Orissa

714. SHRI M.N. DAS: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the three new universities in Orissa, namely, the University of Culture in Bhubaneswar, the North Orissa University in Baripada and the Fakir Mohan University at Balasore have not yet received the required grants from the Union Government; and

(b) if so, the reasons for the lack of such attention?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI):

(a) and (b) According to the information provided by the University Grants Commission (UGC), the three universities have not yet been declared fit to receive grant from the Commission, in terms of Rules framed under Section 12(B) of the UGC Act. Therefore, these universities have not so far been able to receive any grant from the UGC.

Meeting on demands of teachers

715. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRI NAGENDRA NATH OJHA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a negotiation meeting was held between the Ministry, UGC and the representatives of the Federation of Central University Teachers Association in the Month of May this year to discuss on the long pending demands of the teachers; and

(b) if so, the details of discussions that took place the long-pending demands of teachers and settlement arrived at on these demands?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) (a) and (b) No such negotiation meeting was held. However, informal discussions were held on the issues raised by FEDCUTA with their representatives on 23.5.2001 and the Government's stand explained.